"... and this is LIFE ETERNAL"

Millennial Star

Christmas Issue

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"His Name Shall Be

"FOR unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, "In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also."

When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream, that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Called Wonderful"

AND the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing that I know not a man?"

And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee, therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

AND there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

AND the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." And he said unto them, "How it is that ye have sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business." And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

IN those days came John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance, but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear, he shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire. Whose fan is in his hand, and he will gather his wheat into the garner, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordon unto John, to be baptised of him, but John forbad him, saying, "I have need to be baptised of thee, and comest thou to me?"

And Jesus answering said unto him, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he suffered him.

And Jesus, when he was baptised, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, "Repent: for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand," and Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

There was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, saying, "Let us alone, what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee, and who thou art, the Holy One of God."

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Hold thy peace, and come out of him."

And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

They were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What thing is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they obey.

His fame went throughout all Syria: they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy, and he healed them.

And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, from Decapolis, from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan.

And seeing the multitude, he went up into a mountain and taught them, saying:

"BLESSED are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peace makers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for rightousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Therefore take no thought, saying, "What shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed? for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye shall have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.

Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

JESUS said unto them, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

"I am the bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat therof, and not die. I am the living bread, which cometh down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, Jesus sent two disciples, saying unto them, "Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. If any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, the Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them."

And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strewed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before and that followed, cried, saying, "Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest." And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this."

And the multitude said, "This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth and Galilee."

And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, and said unto them, "It is written, my house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves."

And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him, and could not find what they might do: for all the people were very attentive to hear him.

And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple: and he healed them.

THEN assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and consulted that they might take Jesus by subtility, and kill him, but they said, "Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people." So when the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death; and when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said unto them, "Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching these things whereof ye accuse him: No, nor yet Herod, for I sent you to him, and lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. I will therefore chastise him, and release him." And they cried out all at once, saying, "Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas."

Pilate spake again to them. But they cried, saying, "Crucify him, crucify him." And he said unto them a third time, "Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him and let him go." And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and the chief priests prevailed. And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required.

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him. Then said Jesus, "Father forgive them: for they know not what they do." And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And a superscription also was written over him, in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, "This is the King of the Jews."

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom, and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent. The graves were opened, and many bodies of the Saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

NOW upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, and they found the stone rolled away: they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. As they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments, and as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."

It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the Mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles.

The eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed." And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, "Peace be unto you."

But they were terrified and afrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. He said unto them, "Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself, handle me, and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet.

Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day, And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem, ye are witnesses of these things."

And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up to heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.

New Leaders in Europe

ELDER ALMA SONNE
Assistant to the Council of Twelve and President of the European Mission

SISTER LEONA D. SONNE
European Relief Society President

Greetings TO THE MISSIONARIES AND SAINTS OF THE EUROPEAN MISSION

THE whole world, and especially Europe, has witnessed in recent years the sad spectacle of a devastating war: a war that has disturbed the very foundation of civilization both here and across the seas. The social, economic, political and moral well-being of mankind has been seriously threatened. Problems have arisen which defy solution without the aid of an all-wise and over-ruling Providence. The wisdom of man has failed and "the understanding of the prudent" has "come to naught."

Humanity stands at the crossroads. To provide against the perils and calamities of the last days, the Church of Christ was founded and set up as a "standard for the nations." The Gospel has been restored to guide men in their deliberations and to point the way to salvation. Without such guidance, complications will increase and confusion become more confounded.

For this reason Jesus admonished and commissioned His disciples "to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." It was to be taught without fear or favour to every "nation and kindred and tongue and people."

Today the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is sending missionaries into the world to discharge that responsibility.

The missions in Europe have been set in order by President Ezra Taft Benson, whose labours as head of the European Mission have been most successful and are now completed. He returns to his home and family in Zion with the love and confidence of thousands throughout the missionery field in Europe whose love and esteem for him cannot be measured.

Sister Sonne and I were set apart as missionaries in Europe, she "to preside over and assist the Relief Societies," and I, to preside over the European Mission. We come to you in great humility and with a fervent testimony in our hearts that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, through whose instrumentality the Gospel was brought back to earth and the Holy Priesthood restored to man.

The holiday season offers an opportunity for rejoicing and reflection on the greatest events in human history. No one has touched the heart of humanity as did Jesus of Nazareth. He won the noblest victory ever achieved and His cause will eventually triumph and people everywhere will join in the chorus sung by the angels, "on earth peace, good will toward men."

ALMA SONNE.

Christmas to Missionaries

"AND she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tiding of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

At the close of the year 1946, and while the peoples of the world are still praying for peace, it is gratifying to the soul to quietly read the clear, beautiful story of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

To the Latter-day Saints in this great land, we send love and greetings. "May the peace of Christ which passeth human understanding enter your souls and be and abide with you always. During the coming year may the Lord in His wisdom give food to the hungry, raiment to the unclothed, heat and shelter to those who are cold, and may His Spirit bring comfort to the broken hearts, bind the aching wounds, heal those who are sick, preserve from plague and pestilence."

Greetings

the

and Saints

The foregoing paragraph was given to all who would read a few years ago by the First Presidency of the Church.

There should not be any need to encourage Latter-day Saints, but as this season of the year rolls on us it is timely to remind all to again call to their minds the true story of Christ. We bear you our testimony that God lives and that He is a personal, living Father to all the human race. The recorded Biblical facts are many regarding the mission of the Redeemer of the World. We encourage each to again dwell upon the purpose of man and necessary treatment toward fellow beings, if we expect peace. The spark of loving kindness which is stimulated in our observance of Christmas must be cultivated and encouraged to grow in the hearts of all men.

Every Latter-day Saint has accepted willingly an obligation to tell his neighbour and assist in bringing love and confidence into the hearts of the people.

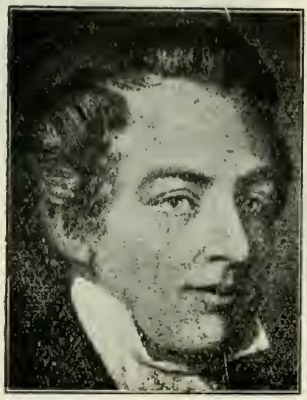
For a truth the Creator of Heaven and Earth, the Son of God, made His entry humbly into this world in a "Manger because there was no room for them in the inn."

This is not the time to cling to falsehood and expect peace and happiness. God in His mercy has placed each upon this earth to walk by faith, which will eventually bring total peace among all people. And with knowledge and love, all will say with the Angel of God, "Glory to God in the highest and an earth peace, good will toward men." And after saying it, we encourage every Latter-day Saint to spread the Truth that God has spoken from the heaven, to Joseph Smith the Latter-day Prophet.

PRESIDENT AND SISTER BOYER.

"Praise to the Man Who

By Elder Wallace G. Bennett



NEVER since the Christ child was born in the humble stable has there been a greater need for men to heed His message of love and good will than at Christmas time, 1946.

Men, though weary of war and suffering, seem unable to make peace and alleviate the misery still extant in the world. In his excellent book "HOW HEATHEN IS BRITAIN?" B. G. Sandhurst sums up the situations thusly: "The horrors of this war have completed the work of disintegration begun in 1914. All certainty as to the existence of moral standards has gone. The persistent neglect and denial of Christian dogma has been followed by the destruction of the principles which follow from it and from it alone. Civilisation based upon materialism has at last shown itself for the ghastly failure it is. The very completeness of the collapse has given us our opportunity."

An example of the debasing philosophies springing up in the post-war era is one in France called "Existentialism." Its proponent, Jean-Paul Sarte, says that importance of an individual lies not in a preconceived ideal, but in the actions of his existence. Contrary to Kant's view that man is responsible only to God, Sartre claims man is responsible to himself. He says that the only reason we manage to do good occasionally is that "we are continually being watched by others."

The greatest need of the age is for men to live by the philosophy revealed by the humble Nazarene, the Redeemer of all men. No man since the time of the Pristine church has contributed more to the world's understanding of the message and mission of Jesus than has Joseph Smith. Born December 23rd, 1805, on a humble farm in Vermont, his name is now known for good and evil throughout the earth. His life is a personal testimony of the divinity of Jesus Christ. His short mortal existence of 39 years was dedicated to a proposition that nearly a million people, now living, affirm as true—that Jesus Christ used him as the instrument in restoring to the earth the kingdom of our Eternal Father.

That the kingdom of God was lost from the earth was predicted in the scriptures and has been historically verified. The American philosopher Lewis Mumford asserts in his new book, "THE CONDITION OF MAN," "Christ asserted the importance of human personality; but this essential part of His teaching was lost when the church became so highly organized that political power was regarded as more sacred than the human individual."

When Joseph Smith was murdered in Carthage, Illinois, his enemies were positive finis had been written to the work he started. The influence for good wielded by adherents of Joseph Smith's claims has steadily increased since his untimely demise, a testimony to the validity of the Prophet's claims.

In this uncertain age a century after Joseph Smith's martyrdom, let us examine some of the contributions he left to a knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ.

Communed With Jehovah"

" And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.' —John 17 : 3.

THE experiences, writings, and revelations of Joseph Smith contribute much to a knowledge of God and Christ. The most important in his account of the vision wherein the two HEAVENLY BEINGS actually appeared to Joseph Smith when he was a lad of fourteen.

THE FIRST VISION

During Joseph Smith's boyhood there was much excitement and interest in religion. Some contended for the Baptists, others for Presbyterians, Methodists, or other groups. In his own account of the period, Joseph Smith relates: "A scene of great confusion and bad feeling ensued—Priest contending against priest, and convert against convert; so that all their good feelings, one for another, if they ever had any, were entirely lost in a strife of words and a contest about opinion."

This situation troubled the boy, an earnest seeker for truth, exceedingly. He tells us, "While I was labouring under the extreme difficulties caused by the contests of these religionists, I was reading one day the Epistle of James, first chapter and fifth verse, which reads: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

This passage seemed to "enter with great force into every feeling" of his heart. He resolved to ask God for an answer to his query concerning which church to join. After retiring to the grove of trees he had previously selected, he knelt and offered the desires of his heart in prayer.

He says: "I had scarcely done so, when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such an astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered around me, and it seemed to me for a time as of I were doomed to sudden destruction. But, exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction—not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from an unseen world, who had such marvellous power as I had never before felt in any being—just as this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me."

"It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me, I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name, and said, pointing to the other, 'This is my beloved Son, Hear Him!' "

Then Joseph was told to join none of the churches. He was told that the churches of the day, "Draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for doctrines the commandments of men; having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof."

Joseph was persecuted and reviled for his statement that he had seen a vision. He relates: "I had actually seen a light, and in the midst of that light I saw two Personages, and they did in reality speak to me, and though I was hated and persecuted for saying that I had seen a vision, yet it was true; and while they were persecuting me, reviling me, and speaking all

manner of evil against me falsely for so saying, I was led in my heart to say, why persecute me for telling the truth? I have seen a vision; I knew it, and I knew that God knew it, and I could not deny it, neither dared I do it, at least I knew that by so doing I would offend God, and come under condemnation."

RESULTS OF VISION

TO the people of this dispensation, the results of this vision which aids us in understanding God and Jesus are two-fold: In the first place, Joseph received a positive answer to the question, "Can a man pray to God and receive an answer?" Secondly, the conception of the Godhead, which had become mysterious, vague, and surrounded by doubt, was, for all who will hear and believe, clarified.

God and Jesus, One in purpose, are two distinct Personages. They have bodies and it is after their Images that men are patterned. Stephen L. Richards sums up the contribution of the vision of Joseph Smith to an understanding of the Godhead thusly, "The first vision brought clarity, definiteness and certainty, not as the product of reasoning, argument, and sophistication, but with the sureness of experience. When Joseph came out of the Grove he had no need to argue for a theory—he knew the facts. God is in form like a man. He has a voice He speaks. He is considerate and kind. He answers prayer. His Son is a like but distinct person. He is obedient to the Father and the mediator between God and man. The presumption of God as a mere essence or principle of power and force in the universe was for all time exploded. The testimony is direct and positive and irrefutable. Many have not believed. but no one has ever had the knowledge to disprove it."

In his later writings and through the revelations he gave, Joseph Smith gives us other knowledge as to the personality and attributes of God and Christ.

In the Book of Mormon, which Joseph Smith translated from gold plates under the inspiration of God, is an account of the appearane of Christ to the brother of Jared long before He was born of the Virgin Mary.

After showing himself unto this man, the Lord said, "Behold I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have light, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and daughters."

This is consistent with Joseph Smith's testimony and is further evidence that God will aid those who draw nigh unto Him.

FURTHER LIGHT ON GOD'S PERSONALITY

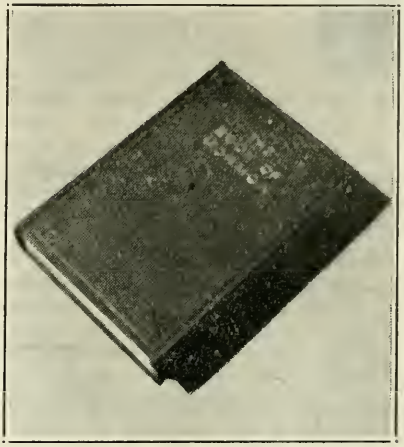
Joseph Smith revealed that "The glory of God is intelligence, or in other words, light and truth." This profound statement throws light on the personality of our Eternal Father, and moves men to seek after all that is true.

When Joseph Smith revealed Christ's statement that "This is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man," he clarified the mission of the Saviour and, according to William E. Berrett, "dignified both God and man."

As we search to know Christ at this Christmas time, recall Joseph Smith's contributions to this quest: He saw God and Christ and bears personal testimony of their interest in men; he translated a book containing the description of the appearance of Jesus to a man before He was born, as well as the account of Christ's appearance to a whole nation upon the American continent after His crucifixion; he tells us God's glory is intelligence; and he affirms the statement made of old that the mission of Christ is to bring immortality and eternal life to men.

"Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand."—Ezekial 37 : 19.

THIS Old Testament scripture, together with statements from Isaiah, Genesis, Psalms, John the Revelator, and Christ's own statement, "other sheep have I not of this fold: them also must I bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd," presage the coming forth of the record of a people not known by the world generally.



This record, the Book of Mormon, was translated by Joseph Smith under divine inspiration. The purpose of the book is to further testify that Jesus is the Christ, the Saviour of men. Today, as we seek to know Christ, an examination of the Book of Mormon will yield fruitful results.

ORIGIN OF BOOK

Joseph Smith received the Book of Mormon in an equally miraculous a manner as he had the first vision. On the night of September 21st, 1823, after Joseph had been wondering for some time what would follow the first vision, he was visited by a heavenly messenger who introduced himself as Moroni. The visitor said he was sent from God to inform Joseph of the work which God would have him do.

Moroni told Joseph that in a nearby hill, gold plates were deposited from which he would translate the writings into the English language. He said Joseph would use in translating, the Urim and Thummim, which are described in Exodus 29. Moroni then quoted prophecies from Malachi, Isaiah, Joel, and Acts. He instructed Joseph not to show the plates he would receive to anyone. He appeared to Joseph two other times that night and later the morning of the next day, each time relating the same things and giving the same instructions.

Joseph Smith did not receive the plates until four years later. In the interim he visited annually the hill where they were buried. Each time he was met by Moroni, who instructed him in his future duties. The translating work was actually begun in April, 1828, and the Book of Mormon was first published in March, 1830, with an edition of 5,000 copies.

The Book of Mormon is "the stick of Joseph" and gives the history of part of the "other sheep" Christ refers to in John 10. The history of three peoples is given: The Jaredites, of whom previous mention has been given; the Nephites, who left Jerusalem about 600 B.C. and whose history comprises the majority of the volume; and the Mulekites, a group who left Jerusalem 11 years after the Nephites did. They were a Jewish people whose remnants were merged with the Nephites late in their history. The work of abridging the records of these people was done largely by Mormon, the last great Nephite prophet-general, and completed by his son, Moroni, the same who appeared to Joseph Smith. The Book is named for Mormon, the abridger.

THEME OF BOOK

The dominant theme of the Book of Mormon is that Jesus is the Christ. His coming was predicted by Lehi, the first Book of Mormon prophet, before he left Jerusalem about 600 B.C. Nephi, the son of Lehi, Alma, Ammon, Samuel the Lamanite, Nephi, the son of Helaman, all foretold the advent of a Redeemer, as did Old Testament prophets. a Redeemer, as did Old Testament prophets.

Near the end of his life, one of the Nephite kings, Benjamin, assembled his people to counsel them. Included in his sermon was the declaration, "We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created heaven and earth, and all things; who shall come down among the children of men."

Much light is thrown on the mission, work, and teachings of Jesus in this book which Joseph Smith translated. When He visited the Nephite people following His resurrection, Jesus told them He was the law and the light, that He gave the law of Moses and that He was the fulfiller of the law.

He taught the true order of baptism and how the sacrament should be administered in remembrance of His body and blood. He forbade disputations, and said, "Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God." He organized His church among the Nephites, ordained twelve apostles, and gave them authority to act in His name.

The prophet Alma, a missionary of Paul's stature, clarifies much doubt concerning the resurrection. He testifies that Jesus brings to pass the resurrection and that it is universal, applying to all men. He also describes the state of the soul between death and the resurrection, revealing that the spirits of men are taken home to the God that gave them life as soon as they are departed from mortality.

No character in the Book of Mormon had a stronger testimony of the divinity of Jesus than did Nephi, the son of Lehi. His humility and faith were exemplary. When asked to do a "hard thing" by his father, he replied, "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them."

In abridging the work of previous writers, Mormon address the Gentiles and declares, "And for this cause I write unto you . . . that ye may believe the gospel of Jesus Christ, ye which shall have among you; and also that the Jews, the covenant people of the Lord, shall have other witness beside him whom they saw and heard, that Jesus, whom they slew, was the very Christ, and the very God. And I would that I could persuade all ye ends of the earth to repent and prepare to stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

Such is the message of the Book of Mormon, given by the Lord through his prophet Joseph Smith as a witness of His Son Jesus.

The Book of Mormon is a tangible evidence of the divine nature of Joseph Smith's calling. Its origin must be explained, for the book is here for all to read.

EXPLANATIONS OF ORIGIN

Three theories remain as to its origin. The first and most fallible is that Joseph Smith, being relatively unlearned, borrowed or stole the book from another author. The second is that he wrote it himself out of his own vivid imagination. This falls under careful scrutiny of what the book contains.

The third possibility is to accept his

claim that the book was translated through the power of God. This is supported by the internal consistency of the work; external evidences furnished by modern archeology and ethnology; and testimonies of witnesses who were shown the plates from which the book was translated.

More important than these is the personal testimonies of countless thousands who have heeded the injunction of Moroni as he closed the record: "And when ye shall receive these things I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost."

The Book of Mormon stands as a major contribution to the world as an aid to the understanding of our Lord Jesus.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the father in my name, he may give it you."—John 15: 16

AS Christ ordained His apostles they received the authority to go forth in His name, "that they might bring forth fruits." Where in all the world are apostles and a priesthood chosen and ordained of Christ? To whom has He given the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, "That whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"? As men search for Christ in this age, would they not find solace to learn that such authority does exist today in the Church of Jesus Christ?

RESTORATION OF PRIESTHOOD

Joseph Smith tells us that when he and Oliver Cowdery were translating the Book of Mormon they wondered exceedingly as to whether and how they should be baptized. Returning to the woods near the Susquehanna River to seek an answer, they were visited by John the Baptist. The visitor conferred upon them the priesthood which he held with these significant words: "Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never again be taken from the earth, that the sons of Levi may offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness."

Shortly thereafter Joseph received the keys of the Melchizedek Priesthood from Peter, James, and John. This was in harmony with Paul's point to the Hebrews that if perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, there would be no need for another priest after the order of Melchizedek.

These events mark the restoration of the priesthood to the earth. As Jesus chose and ordained His servants when He was on earth, so did He in this dispensation. The fruit which today's ordained servants are bringing forth is worth watching. The conception of priesthood inaugurated by the prophet Joseph Smith is a further testimony that his work was sanctioned by Jesus Christ.

A wide distribution of the powers and offices of the priesthood give all worthy male members above the age of 12 years a chance to participate in its benefits. Historical evidence supports the belief that the same practice was extant in the early church.

The channels of authority and organization within the Church operate through the various priesthood units. The ordination of all worthy male members to the priesthood gives the lay ministry strength and social solidarity.

According to Dr. Lowell L. Bennion, "Lay leadership makes for a practical emphasis in religion." The backgrounds of the leaders of the Church are as various as there are activities of men. Dr. Bennion writes, "Such leadership should keep the religious life close to the needs of the people. Practical men do not spend their major effort in theological speculation divorced from the welfare of the people."

The priesthood quorum is the basic organized unit in which members participate in activities designed to make the brotherhood in the Gospel of Jesus Christ a dynamic fellowship.

When the Church Welfare Programme was inaugurated in 1936, no new auxiliary was needed to accomplish the objectives. The programme was built around the priesthood quorum. This programme is but a modern application of principles taught by Joseph Smith and practiced by the Church during his administration as prophet and president.

SPIRIT OF PRIESTHOOD

What is the spirit of this Priesthood? Through Joseph Smith the following exposition of "the divine commission to men to act in the name of God" is given: "Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?

"Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honours of men, that they do not learn this one lesson—"That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.

"That they may be conferred upon us, it is true, but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves, the Spirit of the Lord is grieved and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.

"No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned;

"By kindness and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile—

"Reproving betimes with sharpness, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost, and then showing forth afterwards an increase of love towards him whom thou hast reproved, least he esteem thee to be his enemy;

"That he may know that thy faithfulness is stronger than the cords of death.

"Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly, then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews of heaven.

"The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, and thy sceptre an unchanging sceptre of righteousness and truth, and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, and without compulsory means it shall flow into thee forever and ever."

Stephen L. Richards writes of this passage: "Here is the genius of the government of Christ. No compulsion, —just persuasion; no unrighteousness or autocracy,—only goodness and love. Here is the answer to the religious intolerance and crimes of the centuries; the complete refutation of the alleged injustice of God."

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every kind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive ; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ : From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."—Ephesians 4 : 14-16.

IS there a church on earth wherein the members speak the truth in love, in which all parts fit together perfectly and of which Christ is the head?

On April 6th, 1830, after the Book of Mormon had been published and the priesthood restored, Joseph Smith and five others organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Fayette, New York. The prophet tells us that the Church will not be taken from the earth or given to another people until Christ shall come again to reign personally upon the earth.

Dominant in the tenets of the Church are the recognition of the authority of the priesthood, and the love required of all true disciples of Christ.

GOSPEL PLAN AGAIN IN OPERATION

In the Church which Joseph Smith established, all parts fit together perfectly, even as every joint has a place in the body. Joseph Smith organized the priesthood into the various sections now existing. Under his direction the first women's organization in America was organized. The Relief Society now has over 100,000 members and is actively engaged in improving the spiritual and temporal welfare of the members.

Joseph Smith was always concerned with the temporal as well as the spiritual needs of the members. The present welfare plan of the Church, which provides material aid in relation to need of members, is but a modern application of practices Joseph Smith introduced.

Building on the foundation he laid, later leaders have added auxiliary organizations to the basic structure of Church organization. The Sunday School teaches the gospel; the Primary provides children from 4 to 11 with religious activity; the Mutual Improvement Associations outline cultural and social activities; and the Genealogical Society aids the tasks involved in Temple work for the dead.

Unique in the Church is its missionary system. Many willingly accept the call, for they believe Christ's statement to Joseph Smith which prefaces THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS: "And the voice of warning shall be unto all people, by the mouths of my disciples, whom I have chosen in these last days. And they shall go forth and none shall stay them, for I the Lord have commanded them."

The Church which Joseph Smith restored grows and expands today. It is a vital contribution to the world's understanding of Jesus, for it is in actuality the Church of Jesus Christ.

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10 : 10

THE lives of most men today are anything but abundant. The search for the abundant life has countless meanings for different men. The contributions of Joseph Smith to an understanding of the real meaning of the phrase are worth considering.

In the Book of Mormon, Lehi tells his son, "Men are that they may have joy." This denies the idea that man exists for the state or that he might justifiably seek selfish ends as the purpose of life. It is consistent with the doctrine of eternal progression which has become the core of Mormon philosophy.

Teaching that man is an eternal being, Joseph Smith revealed that, according to Stephen L. Richards, "The family circle is the foundation of exultation and that its projection into eternity is heaven itself. He sanctified the association of loved ones." This concept raises the marriage vow to a new and vital importance. The ever-increasing divorce rate and the decline of the role of the family in the lives of today's citizens are recognized as major causes of the moral condition of the world.

Applying the doctrine that "The glory of God is intelligence," Joseph Smith was intensely interested in education. He revealed, "And as all have not faith, . . . seek learning, even by study and also by faith." He taught that the measure of knowledge gained in this life is retained in the eternities to come.

Another contribution to the abundant life is the revelation known as the Word of Wisdom. Prohibiting the use of strong drink, tobacco, and hot drinks, the revelation urges moderation in all things. Instead of thinking the rules restrictive, members look to the positive benefits accruing from observance: "And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones; And shall run and not be weary and shall walk and not faint. And I the Lord give unto them a promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them."

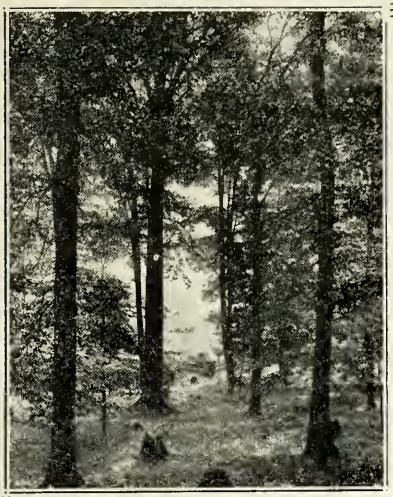
The contributions of Joseph Smith to an understanding of the "Abundant life" concept may be summarized as follows:

Joy is the purpose of life. Men progress throughout eternity. Family relationships are eternal if sealed by the holy priesthood. Love and service are basic to an understanding of the meaning of life. Men's bodies, the tabernacles of their spirits, should be kept clean.

IN SHORT, HE TAUGHT THAT GODHOOD IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE PATTERN LAID DOWN BY JESUS.

As men grope for a stable guide today, the appeal of Jesus, **"Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden,"** has profound significance. The contributions of Joseph Smith to an understanding of Christ shine as a light upon a hill.

Joseph Smith gave the world needed light on the personality and attributes of the members of the Godhead. He translated a book which is a powerful witness for Christ. He was inspired to organize a priesthood and a Church which do the work of Christ, "speaking the truth in love." His philosophy, built on the "abundant life" concept of Jesus, glorifies both God and man. He sealed the testimony of his divine commission with his blood. His message is as a searchlight for all whose quest for Christ seems only to lead them up blind alleys.



Sacred Places

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Thoughtfully and reverently I walked in the
Sacred Grove,
Sunlight filtered through trembling leaves in
the canopy above,
While birds in raptured gladness chirped anew
in throated joy;
A lovely and a sacred place, where knelt that
humble boy.
Yet through that prayer, the light of Truth
goes forth to all the world,
Another dispensation of the Gospel was un-
furled.

Again I stood on Cumorah, where the records
so long had lain,
I saw in mind the battles fought, the many
thousands slain.
In fancy, I saw Moroni hiding his sacred
trust,
Awaiting the time in future years, to come
forth out of the dust.
On top of the monument lofty, o'erlooking the
lonely hill,
Moroni stands as a sentinel, guarding in
vigilance still.

—By Stella S. Wood.

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PRAISE to the Man who communed with Jehovah!
Jesus annointed "that Prophet and Seer"
Blessed to open the last dispensation;
Kings shall extol Him, and nations revere.

HAIL to the Prophet, ascended to heaven!
Traitors and tyrants now fight Him in vain;
Mingling with Gods, He can plan for His brethren,
Death cannot conquer the Hero again.

—William W. Phelps